

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or)
Revocation of the Educator Certificate)
of Carrie L. Staley,)
Certificate 102434)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 14, 2007. On June 29, 2007, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent notice to Carrie L. Staley of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate 102434 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Ms. Staley requested a hearing in writing on July 3, 2007. On July 9, 2007, the Department received notice that Ms. Staley had retained legal counsel to represent her in this matter. On October 4, 2007, Ms. Staley's legal counsel advised the Department that Ms. Staley had agreed to waive her right to a hearing and accept a period of suspension of her certificate. After considering the information presented by the Department, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Staley's certificate under the agreed-upon terms as outlined in this Consent Order of Suspension.

Carrie L. Staley 102434
<u>CLS</u> Initial Here
<u>10/15/07</u> Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Staley holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate in Science and has twenty-four years of teaching experience with the Aiken County School District (District). She is highly qualified in special education. Ms. Staley has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. During the 2006-07 school year, she was assigned to Schofield Middle School (School) as a special education teacher. Ms. Staley resigned from her employment with the

District, effective April 27, 2007, following her acknowledgment that she violated District policy by unintentionally leaving a special needs child in a locked time-out room extending beyond the school day.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2006). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). After considering the information presented by the Department, the State Board concludes that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Carrie L. Staley for a period of twelve months, commencing retroactively on May 1, 2007, through May 1, 2008, on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. Upon written request to the Department's Office of Educator Certification on or after May 1, 2008, Ms. Staley's certificate will be reinstated at the conclusion of the suspension period.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By John E. Tindal
John E. Tindal, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
November 14, 2007

I, Carrie L. Staley, SC Teaching Certificate #102434, have read the Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Wednesday, November 14, 2007.

Carrie L. Staley
Signature

10/18/07
Date